our fourfooted friends

SUMMER 1983

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

Publisher of
OUR FOURFOOTED FRIENDS
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SUMMER 1983
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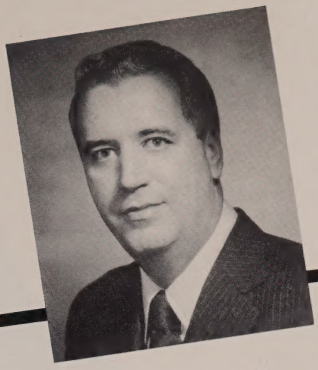
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT...



A NEW CHANCE TO REPEAL POUND SEIZURE

Once again, we are asking you for your help in our continuing efforts to repeal the Massachusetts Pound Seizure Law - Chapter 49-A of the General Laws.

This year's Bill is known as S-215 and it is presently before the Massachusetts Legislature. We have appeared at the public hearing in support of this legislation, and previously sent a Legislative Bulletin to our supporters requesting you to write to your Representatives and Senator, as well as members of the Committee on Counties. If you have not already done so, I strongly urge you to write as soon as possible as it is vital that our Legislators realize that there is tremendous public support for this Bill.

We came closer than ever before in our attempt last year and, with another splendid show of public support from you this year, I feel we have an excellent chance for success. It is especially important that you push for passage of S-215.

It is also vital that you stick to the merits of the repeal of the Pound Seizure Law and not cloud your request with unrelated information and emotional issues. This type of approach, which immediately confuses the issue and misleads Legislators as to your intentions, does more harm than good in fostering the repeal of pound seizure.

Please keep clearly in mind when writing or talking about your support of S-215 that the issue posed by pound seizure legislation is not vivisection vs. anti-vivisection, but rather the source of supply of animals for this purpose, and whether public pounds and animal shelters should be compelled by law to provide animals for experimental use. Humane societies, including the League, have long taken the position that public and private animal shelters should not be forced to surrender animals entrusted to their care. THE LEAGUE HAS NOT, AND WILL NOT, SURRENDER ANY ANIMALS FOR THIS PURPOSE.

A further concern is the fact that pound or "pet" seizure laws often result in a serious breakdown of public confidence in our animal shelters and over-all animal control efforts in the community. The other strong support for this position is the fact that several other states, in the past few years, have recognized this same need and have removed similar laws by legislative action.

Again, I would respectively point out that the question raised by this issue is not the legality of medical research, which is well established. Rather, the issue is that animal pounds are both morally and functionally not the proper source of supply when one considers the basic purpose of these shelters and the realization that the lost and stray animals they are intended to shelter have been individual pets. It is my sincere opinion based on our many years of experience with such unfortunate animals that they are physically, medically and psychologically unfit for research purposes.

Thank you for your past and present support on this issue.

Arthur G. Slade
President

1983 ANNUAL MEETING:

Arthur G. Slade (standing) greets award winners Officer Peter Murphy and Thomas Pilla, with Champ.

People Who Care

Those attending the League's 1983 annual meeting — including two special canine guests — joined in honoring two men who went to great effort to save the lives of dogs during the past year.

At the meeting, held Wednesday, April 20, Arthur G. Slade, League president, presented handsome Certificates of Appreciation from the League to Thomas E. Pilla of Milton and to Brookline Patrolman Peter Murphy.

On a freezing morning last winter, Tom Pilla was driving to work on the Southeast Expressway when he spotted an injured dog trapped between the guard rails near the Boston Gas tanks. He stopped his car and, with the aid of an M.D.C. tow truck driver, extricated the animal and took it to a veterinarian. The dog had numerous injuries, including a destroyed left hip socket which had to be replaced. Pilla paid for the animal's care, and later adopted him. Now fully recuperated, "Champ" was on hand with the Pilla family's other dog, "Yankee," to watch his rescuer being appropriately honored.

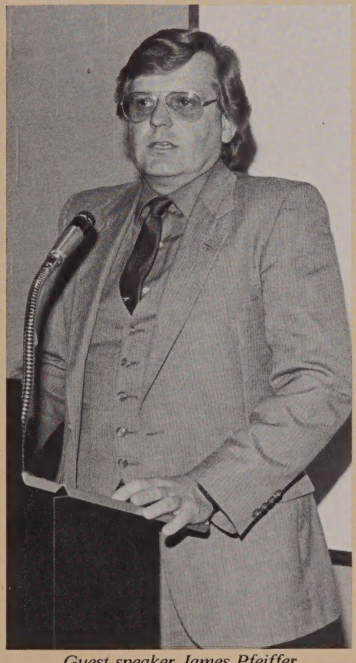
Patrolman Peter Murphy of the Brookline Police Department spotted a man at about 2:00 a.m. last November about to dump a bag into the Muddy River. Suspicious, he stopped him and discovered that the bag contained ten puppies. Not only did Officer Murphy arrest the man for attempted cruelty, but he also further demonstrated his personal concern by caring for the puppies and finding new homes for all ten.

Guests were welcomed to the meeting by John C. Hatch, chairman of the board, and the treasurer's report was presented by John E. Dawson. In his president's report, Mr. Slade noted some encouraging statistics from 1982, including an increase of almost 4,000 new members and donors during 1982, and rising success rates in pet adoptions and return of lost pets.

Members elected one new director to the League's board — Mrs. William Hoyt — and re-elected five directors for three-year terms: Paul J. Brennan, Mrs. Alexander H. Bright, Mrs. George Cushing, Mrs. Kenneth W. Gregg, and John C. Hatch.

Caring is Worldwide

The latest international developments in animal protection were presented by guest speaker James A. Pfeiffer, field officer in the western hemisphere for the World Society for the Protection of Animals (W.S.P.A.). He explained to the audience that W.S.P.A. "was founded to extend the kind of work that the Animal Rescue League and other humane societies do to other nations around the world which lack resources." Thus W.S.P.A. involves a federation of humane societies, large and small, from London to Guatamala, with the Boston office largely responsible for activities in the Latin American countries, the Caribbean, and some parts of Asia.



Guest speaker James Pfeiffer

Highlighting his talk with vivid color slide presentation, Pfeiffer outlined such activities as international animal rescue efforts during floods, earthquakes or man-made threats such as dam construction; development of humane standards for animal transportation; enforcement of animal protection laws; and humane education efforts in developing countries. As one example of humane education efforts, he described how W.S.P.A. has promoted television public service spots opposing bullfighting in countries where it is accepted as a national sport.

W.S.P.A. efforts concentrate on securing the cooperation of local authorities. In one Latin American country, for example, where a religious festival involved the custom of placing a mannequin upon a horse and chasing the animal through town while beating the rider, W.S.P.A. arranged for local Catholic bishops to repeat a statement from the Pope during Be Kind to Animals week regarding St. Francis of Assisi's love for animals and the obligation to treat animals humanely.

He also updated those attending on current international progress against poaching, whale hunting and sealing, and thanked them for their support, as members of the League, of worldwide efforts to protect the animal population.

FROM HAPPY ENDINGS, NEW BEGINNINGS

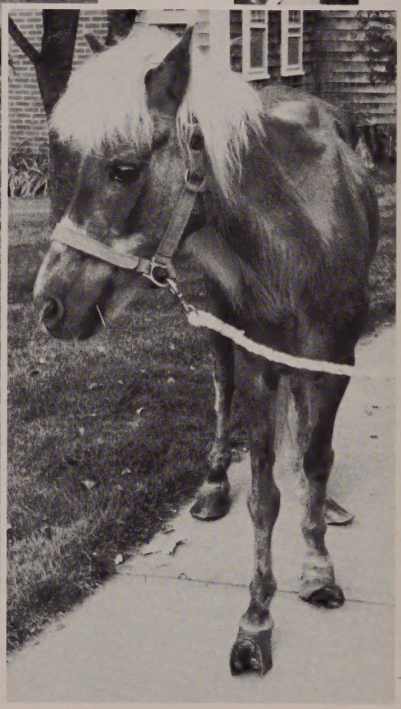
"Little King" first appeared in *Our Fourfooted Friends* in Fall, 1981, just shortly after agents from the League's Cape Cod branch responded to an anonymous phone call and discovered the Shetland pony neglected, malnourished and in extremely poor physical condition.

Today, thanks to the concern and action of many warm-hearted people, this victim of neglect and abuse has a new home and a new name, and most heartening, a new lease on life.

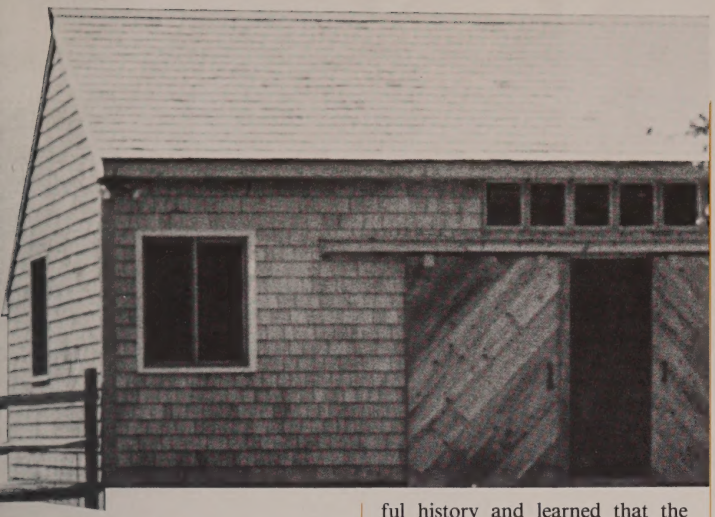
To see "Pippin," as he is known to his new owners, gallop around the fenced paddock in his suburban home, well-nourished, beautifully groomed and surrounded by flowers, fruit orchards and loving friends, an observer would find it hard to believe this is the same animal rescued just one and a half years ago. The report on his condition then stated: "The pony was underweight and the hooves were curled up in front about 9 or 10 inches, and the back hooves were grown out straight about the same length." Though food was available, the pony was obviously not getting nourishment and when its teeth were checked it was found that a bad bite was preventing the pony from eating.

The distressed animal was voluntarily surrendered by his former owner to the League, where he was given shelter and immediate veterinary care. His teeth were "floated," which means filing down to even the bite, and a farrier visited regularly to trim the hooves back gradually.

By the following summer, the pony had recuperated enough to spend July and August at the Animal Friends Summer School in Cataumet, where he was a star attraction with the youngsters and his luck took a major turn for the better. During a special open house held there for League board members and friends, Mrs. Clarita Bright heard about the pony's piti-



Undernourished, with hooves in pitiful condition when he was rescued in 1981 (this page), "Pippin" is the picture of health and happiness today in his home (opposite page).



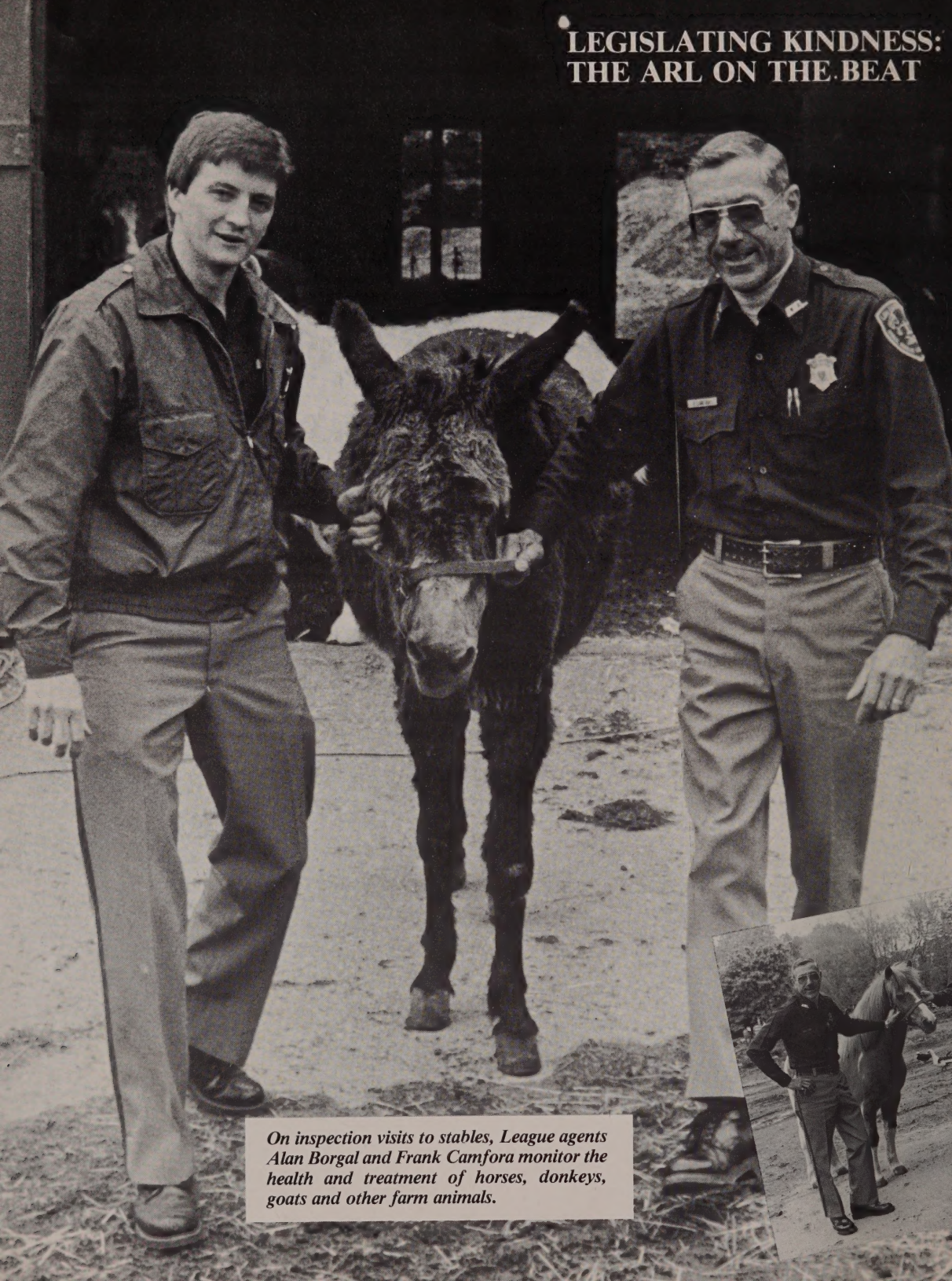
ful history and learned that the League was looking for a permanent home for the animal.

"When I saw him, I fell in love with him, and I felt so sad that any animal had to suffer so badly," she recalls. "But I also knew that owning a pony would be a big responsibility." After several nights and lots of encouragement from one of her daughters who is a horse enthusiast, the decision was made. Proper shelter was the first priority and carpenters were put to work immediately building a sturdy, attractive fence around what was to be the pasture area, and, for the pony's home, a brand new stable within eyesight and earshot of the family's home. "Meanwhile, my daughter bought books on horse care and I used the time to prime up on proper feeding, shelter and care techniques," Mrs. Bright notes.

The pony arrived at his new home last December and was immediately renamed "so we could forget the terrible past and start fresh," she explains. Currently "Pippin" shares his quarters and a close friendship with another pony named "Basil" or "Bay" for short, which the family is temporarily housing for the winter. Nearby, in the house or yard, are other fourfooted friends rescued by the Brights: a dog named "Spook" who was born in the nearby woods and two cats who were found abandoned on the Cape at summer's end.

Because of his history of foot problems, "Pippin" has been visited by the farrier twice since December. But otherwise, the ill effects of his experiences are difficult to discern. He is very amiable, loves to be cleaned and groomed and seems to thrive on attention. "And although he is still not quite as trusting of people as is his stablemate, Bay, he is a lot more responsive than when he first came, and grows more so every day," Mrs. Bright concludes.

LEGISLATING KINDNESS: THE ARL ON THE BEAT



On inspection visits to stables, League agents Alan Borgal and Frank Camfora monitor the health and treatment of horses, donkeys, goats and other farm animals.

With some animal protection laws dating back to colonial days, Massachusetts was one of the earliest states to have anti-cruelty laws and today the Commonwealth's legislation prohibiting cruelty to animals is among the most comprehensive in the country.

"In other areas, much is left to the interpretation of those enforcing the laws, but in Massachusetts our law spells out the exact kinds of inhumane behavior that can lead to prosecution," explains Richard W. Bryant, the League's executive assistant, a special police officer and supervisor of the law enforcement program which includes several staff members with commissions as special police officers for animal cruelty investigations.

Cruelty and abuse situations come to the League's attention in a variety of ways. In addition to those detected on routine inspections of pet shops, animal auctions, fairs and other commercial activities, the League's ambulance drivers out on collection or rescue calls often alert agents to suspicious situations, and concerned citizens register complaints by phone and letter on an almost daily basis.

"We follow up on all complaints, even the anonymous ones," according to Alan Borgal, one of the League's special police officers. "First we send a team to investigate and inspect the condition of the animal. If there is evidence of cruelty or neglect, we issue a warning, backed up by a certified letter. If a follow-up check indicates that the warning has been ignored, that the animal is suffering and the people are clearly at fault, then the case is brought to court."

Maximum penalty for a cruelty to animals conviction is $500 plus a year in jail. It is highly unusual to secure a maximum conviction, and indeed only about 20 to 30 cases out of perhaps 1,000 complaints ever reach the court. "Our main purpose is to protect the animal and to educate the owner," Richard Bryant emphasizes. "Ignorance is at the root of much of the suffering we see — dogs tied in the yard without adequate shelter or water, or animals that have been injured or appear diseased but have not been taken to a veterinarian. First we try to correct the situation, but if we can't, our next aim is to remove the animal for protective custody through legal means."

Earlier this year, League agents were called to the Symphony Hall area where an intoxicated man was beating his dog. The police were called and the League was given temporary custody of the dog. When the case went to court, the owner was convicted and given a year's probation, but the dog was turned over to the League which placed it in a new home.

Not all cases have such favorable outcomes. Following up on an anonymous complaint, agents found a dog locked in a private building in Roxbury that appeared to be unoccupied, though there was a name on the door. By the time the missing owner was located, the dog had starved to death. The owner, who had left the dog, without food or water, to guard the building, was convicted and received the maximum sentence.

(Cont'd on page 10)

The ARL on the Beat

(Cont'd from page 9)

Jail is not always the solution, however. A recent case on the North Shore involved adolescents who were caught hitting seagulls with chains. A hearing was held and the youngsters were put on probation. "We had no desire to drag children through court," Mr. Bryant notes. "But we did want to get them assigned to probation officers and counselors, if possible." The parents also made the youngsters pay the cost of legal fees, he adds.

All of the agents agree that animals are often the victims of human frustration and personal arguments. "Whenever there is a domestic quarrel, a divorce or a neighborhood feud, it's the animals involved that invariably suffer," Alan Borgal says. People either take out their hostility directly on the animal, or use the animal to pay back a grudge, sometimes by filing false cruelty complaints.

While cruelty to animals may be more visible in low socio-economic areas, where people are under financial as well as emotional stress, it is by no means confined to poor neighborhoods. "We see cruelty everywhere," Bryant stresses, "including the most affluent areas. The better staffed and more mobile our department becomes, the more tragedy we see." And many cases go unsolved each year. Animals are abandoned, or tortured and killed, and despite extensive investigation, follow-up with neighbors, and pursuit of all possible leads, the perpetrators are still at large, free to continue to abuse the animals that trust them.

An aware and concerned citizenry, and an emphasis on teaching humane attitudes to young people, are absolutely essential if today's cruelty statistics are to be reduced in the future. "We are also working to expand our current anti-cruelty legislation," Mr. Bryant adds. Senate Bill 1176 would expand the law to require owners to provide a "sanitary environment" for animals; and House Bill 2947 would increase the inspection powers of special police officers to include all commercial, educational or scientific organizations that have animals on the premises. Readers can help by urging their State Senator and Representatives to support these bills.

Everyday, League agents find dogs left outdoors without food or water, abandoned, or subjected to dangerous conditions, like this dog riding alone in an open-backed truck.

APPEALING FOR YOUR HELP

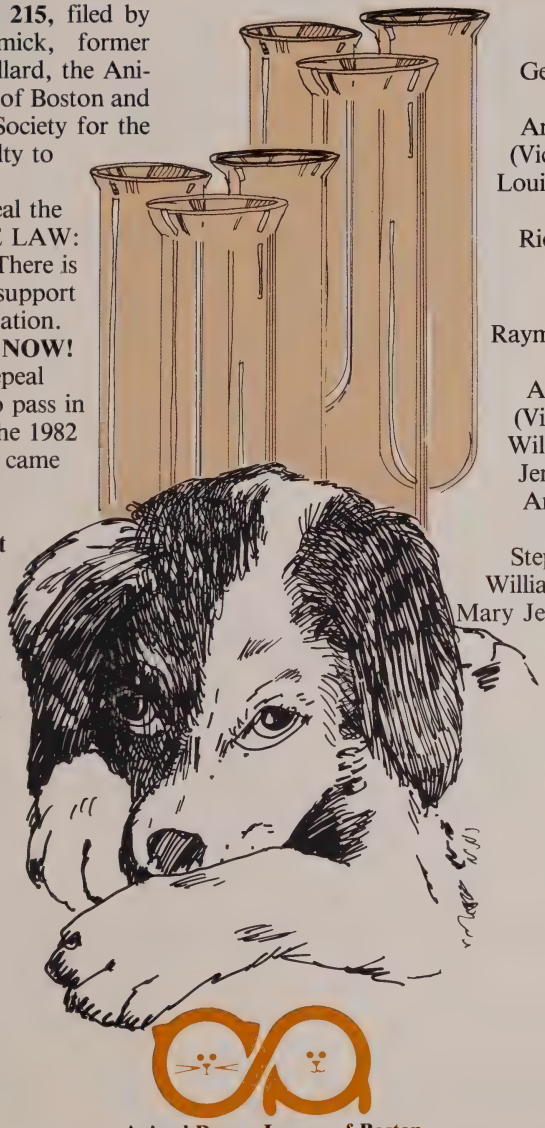
THE ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE HAS NOT AND WILL NOT SURRENDER ANY PETS FOR THIS PURPOSE

We need your continued help to repeal the law which sends unclaimed and lost pets from town animal pounds to research laboratories. We are once again urging all of our members and friends to **support Senate Bill 215,** filed by Senator Carol Amick, former Senator Sharon Pollard, the Animal Rescue League of Boston and the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

This bill will repeal the POUND SEIZURE LAW: CHAPTER 49-A. There is tremendous public support for this repeal legislation. **We need your help NOW!**

Last year, the Repeal Legislation failed to pass in the final hours of the 1982 Senate Session. We came very close last year and we know that this time, in 1983, **it is a winning issue.**

We urge you to please write your own State Representative and Senators to support this legislation: SENATE-215.



In addition to your own Representatives and Senator, please write the House and Senate Chairmen of the Committee on Counties, as well as the other Committee members:

Senators

George Bachrach (Chairperson)
Anna P. Buckley (Vice-Chairperson)
Louis P. Bertonazzi
Paul V. Doane
Richard A. Kraus
John W. Olver

Representatives

Raymond A. Jordan (Chairperson)
Allan R. Chiocca (Vice-Chairperson)
William D. Benson
Jeremiah F. Cahir
Argeo P. Cellucci
Andres Collaro
Stephen W. Doran
William J. Flynn, Jr.
Mary Jeannette Murray
Angelo Picucci

Animal Rescue League of Boston

Pets in the Picture

William Vautrinot of Eastham sends along this photo of "Jake" at the age of 18 months. "Jake" was originally adopted from the League's Cape Cod Branch at Brewster.

"Ezra" is the picture of solid comfort perched on a shelf in the home of owner Janet Murphy of Wakefield, who adopted the cat from the League's Boston shelter in 1976. The following year Ms. Murphy also adopted a second cat named "Jacob," from the same shelter. "I had gone with some friends to help *them* pick out a pet," she writes, "but I should have known better...I now have three cats and a dog, and I think that all the animal shelters do a wonderful job of caring for sick and abandoned animals and placing them with folks that will love, appreciate and care for them properly."

"Lady" Michaels is a shelter alumna described by her owner as a "former Fourfooted Friend." "Lady's" photo graced a greeting card sent along to the League by Donald Michaels of Worcester.

CURRENT MOVIES

The American Humane Association has established the following motion picture classification standards to provide a reliable and serviceable film guide for parents and others interested in assessing the impact of a given movie:

Acceptable: American Humane was on location to monitor animal action and to ensure humane treatment. Scenes appearing to endanger animals are simulated.

Believed Acceptable: The Association was not on location to monitor animal action, but after screening or script review, American Humane representatives concluded the film producer complied with Association standards and intentions.

Questionable: American Humane personnel not on the scene. Animal action and treatment is in doubt.

Unacceptable: Outright cruelty to animals during production.

Acceptable

Endangered Species, MGM/United Artists
Something Wicked This Way Comes, a Walt Disney Production
The Beastmaster, Film Builders Corporation
Twilight Zone—The Movie, Warner Bros.
The Hunger, MGM/United Artists
The Trout, Triumph Films
The Young Warriors, Star Cinema Prod. Group
Yes, Giorgio, MGM Productions

Believed Acceptable

Ator, Comworld Pictures
Honkytonk Man, Warner Brothers
Lone Wolf McQuade, Orion Pictures
The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez, Embassy Pictures
The Man From Snowy River, a Geoff Burrows/George Miller Production
The Scarecrow, The Frank Moreno Company

Questionable

Yol, Triumph Films

Unacceptable

Triumphs of a Man Called Horse, Jensen Farley Pictures

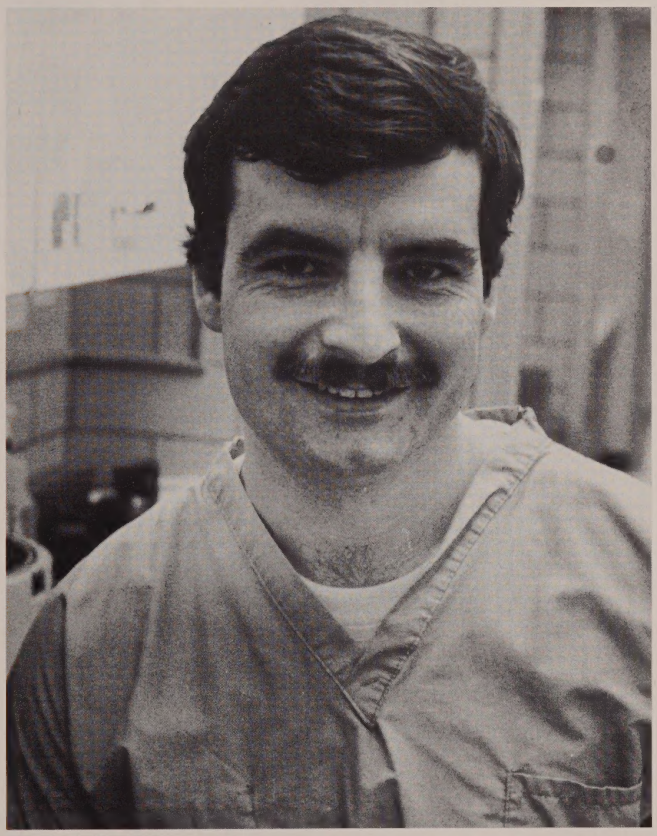
newsfront

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

New Appointments to League Staff

Keith Hopkins, D.V.M., was appointed director of veterinary medicine at the League in April, succeeding Edward A. Leonard, D.V.M., who had served in that position for the past three years. Dr. Hopkins received his D.V.M. degree from Ohio State University and a B.A. degree from Otterbein College in Ohio. Before joining the League, he conducted a mixed animal practice, caring for both large and small animals. He lives on the South Shore with his wife and two children plus three dogs, four cats and a horse.

Robert P. Kennedy was appointed to the League staff in January as controller. A graduate of Stonehill College and a resident of Brockton, he was formerly chief accountant for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Manpower Development, where he had served for nine years before joining the League.



Dr. Keith Hopkins

SPANISH GOVERNMENT HALTS STONING OF ANIMALS

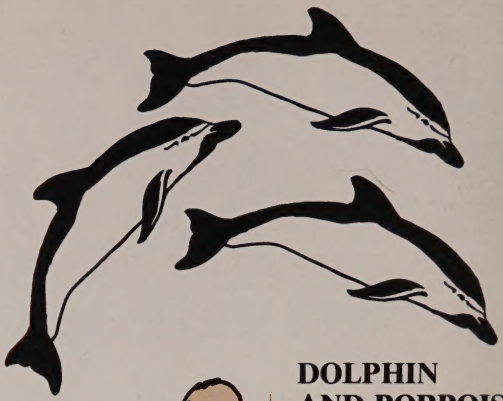
The annual stoning of small animals such as rabbits, chickens and doves during the winter festival in Los Llanos de la Cruz, Spain, has been banned by Spanish authorities. In customs dating back to the Middle Ages, villagers throw stones at animals tied to wooden stakes and whoever delivers the fatal blow was entitled to take the dead animal home for dinner. As a result of international pressure organized by the World Society for the Protection of Animals (W.S.P.A.), the Spanish Ambassador to the U.S., Nuno Aguirre de Carcer informed W.S.P.A. earlier this year that "the Spanish Authorities have taken effective and appropriate measures to prevent any recurrence of the incident which took place in Los Llanos de la Cruz." A W.S.P.A. field officer attended this year's festival in February and reported that the ban was strictly enforced and there was no incidence of animal cruelty at the festivals.

(Cont'd. on page 14)

(Cont'd. from page 13)

UNTOLD ANIMAL SUFFERING IN AUSTRALIAN BUSH FIRES

The bush fires that swept through the Australian states of Victoria and South Australia this winter took a disastrous toll of animal life, according to W.S.P.A. reports. To date, the known death toll is estimated at 200,000-300,000 sheep, 900 cattle and over 600 horses. Casualties among wildlife were reported to be "incalculable."



DOLPHIN AND PORPOISE HUNT BANNED

The large-scale killing of dolphins and porpoises by Turkish hunters in the eastern Black Sea — long a matter of great international concern — was halted this Spring by the Turkish government. Effective April 3, 1983, the hunting of dolphins and porpoises is prohibited and "the ban will last for an indefinite period until final results of a research project underway are available and fully analyzed," according to Turkish Ambassador Sükrü Elekdàg. Estimates of the number of dolphins and porpoises killed in 1981 vary from 8,000 to over 25,000. A population study in the Black Sea is scheduled to be conducted this year.

MUCH ADO ABOUT MUSHROOMS!

An Olympia, Washington family learned the facts of feline life the hard way, according to a report in a recent issue of *Today's Animal News.* Returning from a hiking trip, the family ate a quantity of fresh-picked mushrooms, then gave the leftovers to the family cat. A short time later the cat appeared to be in distress and writhing in what looked like convulsions. The family of seven panicked and took off for the nearest hospital where they had their stomachs pumped, only to return home and find their cat purring happily over a litter of new-born kittens.

DOG HERO SAVES DROWNING OWNER

A dog from Glenwood Springs, Colorado, was named the Ken-L-Ration Dog Hero of 1982 for saving his owner, Laurie Roberts, from drowning after a raft capsized on the Colorado River. When a large wave tipped the raft over, the other occupants were thrown downstream to safety but the dog and his mistress were trapped underneath. After emerging from under the raft and discovering his owner missing, the dog "Bo" dove back down and reappeared shortly towing Laurie by the hair. Once free of the raft, she clung to the dog's tail while Bo pulled her to safety on shore. The dog received a gold-plated leash and collar, a year's supply of dog food, and a $1,000 savings bond.

Membership in the A.R.L. makes a nice gift for someone special!

For further information on Gift Membership in the Animal Rescue League of Boston, please contact:

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

P.O. BOX 265 BOSTON, MA 02117
TEL. 426-9170

if you're fond of animals...

The League continues to rely on the generosity of its friends to meet the ever-expanding needs of our animal population. The cruel realism of inflation makes the League's task in providing needed services more difficult than ever, but with continued support, the challenge can and will be met.

In making a bequest to the League in your Will, please remember that the corporate title of our society is "Animal Rescue League of Boston", that it was incorporated in 1899, and has no connection with any other similar society.

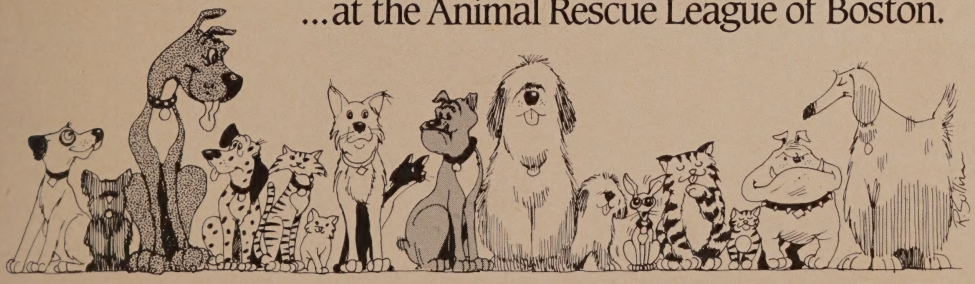
Form of Bequest

I give to the Animal Rescue League of Boston the sum of _____ dollars.

The League's address is:
10 Chandler Street,
Boston, Massachusetts 02116.

Love comes in all colors and sizes...

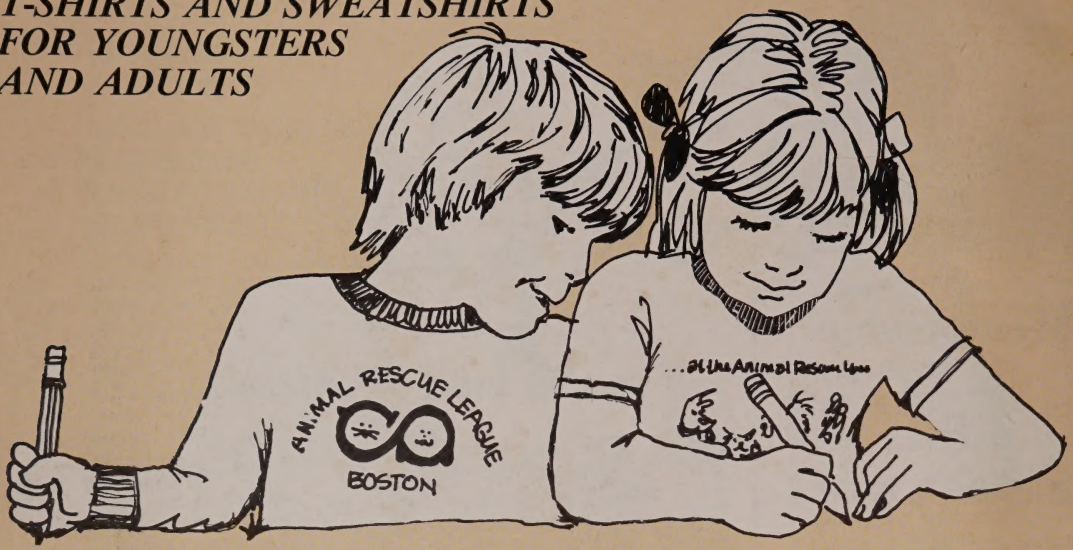
...at the Animal Rescue League of Boston.



Boston 426-9170 | **Salem** 744-7910 | **E. Brewster** 255-1030

Animal Rescue League of Boston
A Non-Profit Humane Society Helping Animals Since 1899.

T-SHIRTS AND SWEATSHIRTS FOR YOUNGSTERS AND ADULTS



Sweatshirts in forest green

Children's Sizes:
Small(6-8) Medium(10-12) Large(14-16)
$9.00 each

Adult Sizes:
Small(36) Medium(40) Large(42) X-Large(44)
$10.00 each

T-Shirts in forest green with rainbow letters

Children's Sizes:
Small(6-8) Medium(10-12) Large(14-16)
$6.00 each

Adult Sizes:
Small(36) Medium(40) Large(42) X-Large(44)
$7.00 each

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Please send me:
T-Shirts (Children's sizes _____) at $ 6.00 each
(Adult size _____) at $ 7.00 each
Sweatshirts (Children's sizes _____) at $ 9.00 each
(Adult sizes _____) at $10.00 each

Cost includes postage and packaging

Enclosed is my check in the total amount of _____, made payable to the Animal Rescue League of Boston.
Mail to: **Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117**

Our Fourfooted Friends (US ISSN 0030-6851)
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265, Boston, Massachusetts 02117